from the Customs lounge at Sahar Airport. In one case, the goods were found to have been deposited in the Customs warehouse as unclaimed and were resorted to the passenger. In the remaining two cases, the goods alleged to have been stolen could not be located on enquiry. No Customs or Airport official was alleged to have been involved in any of these cases. The Customs Department is not liable for payment of compensation for any thefts occurring inside the Customs lounges. Such complaints of thefts are registered and enquired into by the police authorities.

Steps initiated by banks to control frauds and robberies

2124. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that to control Bank Frauds and robberies being committed in nationalised Banks all over the country, the Ministry of Home Affairs suggested certain special steps sometimes duing the years 1983 and 1984;

(b) if so, what are the details of the special steps suggested;

(c) whether these steps have since been taken by the nationalised banks all over the country;

(d) if not, the names of banks and their respective branches alongwith the detailed reasons in each case; and

(e) what action Government propose to take against such banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Ministry of Home Affairs have intimated that during the years 1983 and 1984 they had not suggested any special steps to be taken to control bank frauds and robberies.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Branches of banks opened

2125. SHR S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of nationalised banks opened in the country during the last 3 years-wise and State-wise;

(b) the number of branches of nationalised banks proposed to be opened during the current and next financial year; Statewise;

(c) whether it is a fact that the number of branches of nationalised banks opened in Bihar is much less in comparison to the branches opened by these banks in other States if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) State-wise details of bank offices opened in the country during the last three years is given in the statement. (*See* below).

(b) On the basis of lists of identified centres received from the State Government, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has so far allotted 4440 centres to banks including Regional Rural Banks for opening branches at the rural and semi urban centres under the current Branch Licensing Policy for 1985—90. RBI has advised the banks that branches against the allotted centres, should be opened in a phased manner during the remaining period of the current Policy. Opening of branches by the banks at the centres allotted to them depends upon several factors such as availability of requisite infrastructural facilities including suitable premises, adequacy of security arrangements etc. It is therefore, not possible at this stage to indicate the number of branches that will be opened during the current year and the next financial year.

(c) and (d) During the last three years, 1065 bank offices were opened in Bihar which in terms of numbers is more than the number of branches opened in any other State except Uttar Pradesh.

Statement

Statewise Union Territory-wise number of bank offices opened in the country during 1984 1985 *and* 1986.

Name of State	1984	1985	1986
Andhra Pradesh	382	313	25
Assam	79	179	14
Bihar	318	729	18
Gujarat	158	192	21
Haryana	48	61	10
Himachal Pradesh	23	27	11
Jammu and Kashmir	41	32	—
Karnataka	347	203	17
Kerala	74	80	5
Madhya Pradesh	362	297	49
Maharashtra	320	242	38
Manipur	7	11	—
Meghalaya	24	11	4
Nagaland	6	6	1
Orissa	194	140	8
Punjab	107	58	10
Rajasthan	279	326	7
Sikkim	2	—	—
Tamil Nadu	229	138	5
Tripura	14	14	—
Uttar Pradesh	715	751	51
West Bengal	179	492	65
Andaman & Nicobar Island	—	1	—
Arunachal Pradesh	7	9	5
Chandigarh	6	2	—
Delhi	45	29	6
Goa, Daman & Diu	2	—	—
Mizoram	17	12	—
Pondicherry	3	1	—
TOTAL :	3988	4356	371